

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3549

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AL, CZ
SUBJECT: RUMANIAN COMMENTS ON ALBANIA

REF: MOSCOW 18705

1. RUMANIAN COUNSELOR VLAD POPA SPOKE TO DCM RECENTLY ABOUT
DEVELOPMENTS IN ALBANIA. HIS MAIN POINTS:

A. WHILE POLITICAL PORTIONS OF RECENT MARATHON SPEECH BY HOXHA
AT ALBANIA'S PARTY CONGRESS ATTACKED BOTH THE U.S. AND
U.S.S.R., SECTIONS OF HIS SPEECH DEALING WITH ECONOMIC
POLICIES HINTED AT TIRANA'S READINESS TO EXPAND FOREIGN TRADE.

B. U.S.G. SHOULD LOOK AT ECONOMIC PORTIONS OF SPEECH CAREFULLY,
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WITH AN EYE TO POSSIBLY FINDING AN OPENING WEDGE FOR
DEVELOPING BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA.

C. WITH POLITICAL CHANGES NOW UNDERWAY IN CHINA, THERE MIGHT
BE SOME SHIFTING OF ALBANIAN POLICIES AS WELL. THE TIME COULD
BE APPROACHING FOR A READJUSTMENT OF U.S. - ALBANIAN

RELATIONS -- STARTING WITH INCREASED ECONOMIC CONTACTS.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK-ALBANIAN TIES: POPA NOTED THAT RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE ON ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY WAS QUALITATIVELY ON SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEARS, BUT THAT QUANTITATIVELY IT WAS "SOMEWHAT LONGER." COMMENT: OUR READING OF THAT ARTICLE REMINDS US OF REFTEL CHARACTERIZATION OF NOVEMBER 27 IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON ALBANIA -- "MARGINALLY WARMER." END COMMENT.

3. WE SUBMIT POPA'S REMARKS FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH. OTHER THAN OBSERVATION CONTAINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANYTHING IS STIRRING IN CZECHOSLOVAK-ALBANIAN RELATIONS.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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